Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of March 31, 2003 to April 4, 2003

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Canadian GDP	January			Canada's Gross Domestic Product rose by 0.4% in January - the sixteenth consecutive monthly increase. Industrial production increased by a substantial 0.9%, with the manufacturing (+0.7%), mining (+0.9%) and utilities (+2.2%) sectors all reporting significant jumps in output. On an annual basis, Canadian GDP was up 3.4% from January 2002.
(millions of 1997 dollars)	993,145	0.4%	3.4%	
Help-Wanted Index (1996 = 100)	March			Alberta's Help-Wanted Index increased to 124.3 in March, up 0.6% from February. Canada's Index rose to 112.7, an increase of 1.2% from the previous month, and the first increase in the national index in seven months.
Alberta	124.3	0.6%	-9.3%	
Canada	112.7	1.2%	-10.8%	
Rigs Drilling	March			In March, the number of active rigs drilling in Alberta was up 20 percent compared to the same period last year. While the active rig count was down 11 percent from the two-year high recorded in February, rigs drilling stood 29 percent above the average level for March over the preceding 10 years.
	369	-11.0%	20.0%	